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FEB 04 1997

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Stay Alive

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Avoid the

“Fatal Five”



Illinois State Police

TOP FIVE CAUSES OF FATAL CRASHES:

1. Speed

Don't exceed the speed limit!

Always be aware of and obey the posted speed limits. Most of all, reduce your speed when road conditions are less than ideal.

2. DUI

Don't drink and drive!

Alcohol is involved in nearly half of all fatal accidents. Never operate a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

3. Occupant Restraint

Buckle up!

Make sure all passengers are properly restrained.

4. Following Too Close

Don't tailgate!

When following another vehicle, always follow at a distance of at least two seconds.

When the rear bumper of the vehicle ahead of you passes a stationary object, count "one thousand one, one thousand two." As you finish counting, your front bumper should reach the same point.

5. Improper Lane Usage

Don't switch lanes suddenly!

Always use proper turn signals when changing lanes, as well as checking your blind spots before merging.

Seat belts Save Lives

- Since 1982, it is estimated that seat belts have saved 75,087 lives while child restraints have saved an estimated 2,934 lives.
- Thousands of people are killed and seriously injured every year in crashes because they were not properly restrained.
- Seat belts save lives by absorbing the force of a crash and keeping the driver in position behind the steering wheel to regain control of the vehicle, and passengers from striking one another.
- A seat belt can only protect you if it is used — and used properly. Provide enough seat belts for each person traveling in your vehicle.
- Front seat occupants must be properly restrained.
- Children under age of four years must be secured in an approved child safety seat.
- Four- and five-year-olds must be secured in either a safety seat or by a safety belt. Always buckle up children appropriately for their size and weight (child safety seat, booster seat, lap/shoulder belt).
- The best defense against death or injury in a traffic crash is occupant protection.
- Show you care — don't start your car until all passengers are fastened.

Air bags — as simple as ABC

- Air bag safety; **B**uckle up everybody; **C**hildren in back seat.
- Air bags, combined with lap/shoulder belts, offer the most effective safety protection available today for passenger vehicle occupants.
- Air bags have been shown to save more than 1,700 lives and are 30 percent effective in reducing fatalities in a frontal crash.
- **Never** place a rear-facing child safety seat in the front seat of cars equipped with passenger-side air bags. The impact of a deploying air bag striking a rear-facing child seat could result in injury to the child.
- **Remember** — children 12 and under in the back seat — the safest place for all children.
- Adults should always buckle up snugly and sit as far back as possible, at least 10-12 inches from where the bag deploys.



Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois
Jim Edgar, Governor
Terrance W. Gainer, Director
Gene P. Marlin, First Deputy Director
ISP5-545 (2/97) 5M



CHILD SAFETY ALERT

Children & Air Bags — It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3

1

Never put a rear-facing child seat (those used with infants) in the front seat of a car with an air bag. Your child could be in danger in a crash!

2

Make sure all children are buckled up no matter where they sit. Unbuckled children can be hurt or killed by an air bag.

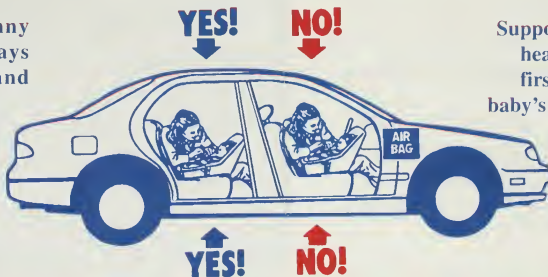
3

The rear seat is the safest place for children of any age to ride.

For more information contact: The Illinois State Police Safety Education Unit at (217) 524-2525, or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at (800) 424-9393.

BABIES AND AIR BAGS DON'T MIX!

In hot or sunny weather, always check fabric and metal buckles for heat before putting a child into the seat.



Support the newborn's head. For about the first three months, a baby's head needs extra support. Use a rolled towel on each side of the head.

THE SAFEST PLACE FOR ANY CHILD SAFETY SEAT IS IN THE BACK SEAT OF THE VEHICLE. A child safety seat can save your child's life, but it's important to use it correctly! There are 27 different safety belt systems and 50 kinds of child safety seats on the market. **Parents must read both the child safety seat instructions and vehicle owner's manual to make sure their child's safety seat is properly installed in a vehicle.**



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SAFETY ALERT

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